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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

#12

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

TAKAYOSHI SASAKI ET AL : EXAMINER: AHMED, S.

SERIAL NO: 09/770,400 :

FILED: JANUARY 29, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1773

FOR: TITANIA ULTRATHIN FILM AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING IT :

RECEIVED
SEP 25 2003
TC 1700

LETTER

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313

SIR:

Applicant kindly request the Office to consider the Amendment and Request for Reconsideration originally filed on August 15, 2003, submitted herewith the Request for Continued Examination. Applicants also wish to point out, in further traverse of the outstanding rejection, that Oishi et al does not disclose or suggest the lamina particles as claimed. As noted in Figures 1 and 2 of the reference, only spherical particles are disclosed. Applicants have noted the Office's assertion that "the inorganic thin film is the lamina particle layer" set out at page 2 of the Advisory Action, but kindly submit that such an assertion has no support in the reference. At best, referring to the inorganic thin film, Oishi et al discloses that "the cross-sectional structure of the inorganic thin film is in the laminated form of aggregates of fine particles." Column 6, lines 6-8. This is not the same as what is claimed, which is that the particles themselves are lamina particles. As noted in the specification, for example at page 2, lines 4ff, the lamina particles are in the form of nanosheets which

have a high two-dimensional anisotropy (page 6, lines 15-18). In contrast to the invention, as is clear from Figures 1 and 2 of Oishi et al, the reference discloses only spherical particles obtained from a dispersed sol solution. Thus, Oishi et al discloses no more than what is referred to in Applicants' background section, which is that colloidal particles dispersed in a sol are in a substantially isotropic form, wherein the obtained thin film is a dense aggregate of spherical particles (page 1, lines 21-24). Compared to a layer of spherical particles, a layer of lamina particles such as claimed has excellent UV ray absorbance. The present invention is not disclosed or suggested in the cited reference, and withdrawal of this rejection is warranted.

Respectfully submitted,

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